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X
Elgin Town Council

*To his Grace His Majesties high Commis-
sioner, and the right honourable Estates
of Parliament.*

*The PETITION of the Magistrats and
Town Council of Elgin :*

Humbly sheweth,

That your Petitioners Predecessors in Office did before the Revolution commence the Building of a most convenient Harbour, which is altogether necessary for Trade, there being little safety by any Harbour in Storms on the *Murray* Firth. But our people falling Poor, partly by our Towns being the through-gate of the Forces before the year 1691, and partly by the late extraordinary Dearth, we are not able for want of Fonds to bring it to perfection.

Our Town, with acquiescence of the Inhabitants, obtained a Gift from the late King, of a Plack upon each Pynt of Ale & Beer sold and retailed, in *anno* 1687, for the space of seven years thereafter. But we did not put the same in execution, in respect of its not having the authority of Parliament. It is therefore now humbly represented to your Grace and the right Honourable Estates, that this great and publick Good of a Harbour at this place, will perish and come to no effect, unless we be enabled to carry the same on by your Grace and the Estates, empowering of us and our Successors in Office to exact a Plack on the Pynt of Ale and Beer sold and retailed within our Burgh, Colledge and old Milns and Liberties thereof, for some competent time, that may be suitable to the great Expence of the Undertaking.

This Harbour will be a common benefite both to his Majesties Subjects and Forraigners, the occasions of Commerce being frequent upon that Firth. It will accommodat our neighbouring Heretors with an easie and safe access for transporting the Product of their Lands. It will conduce to the repeopling and setting up again of the Inhabitants of his Majesties Royal Burgh. And it is absolutely impossible for us to perfect it, whereby the bygone Expence will be lost, the rather that our Tolbooth is lately burnt by one who was Prisoner therein for breach of the publick Peace, which will cost us about 6000 Merks in rebuilding it.

May it therefore please your Grace and the right honourable the Estates, to grant to your Petitioners and our Successors in Office, and Impower us to uplift four Pennies upon each Pynt of Ale and Beer, sold and retailed within our Burgh, Colledge vnd old Milns and the Liberties thereof, as is contained in our former Gift, for the space of seven Years, commencing at Candlemas next 1701, to be imployed for the uses before-mentioned, by the Thesaurer of our Burgh, by the direction of the Magistrats and Town Council for the time being. And your Petitioners shal ever pray.